

CIRCUIT COURTS

Budget Summary						FTE Position Summary				
Fund	2010-11 Adjusted Base	Governor		2011-13 Change Over Base Year Doubled		2010-11	Governor		2012-13 Over 2010-11	
		2011-12	2012-13	Amount	%		2011-12	2012-13	Number	%
GPR	\$95,790,000	\$90,248,400	\$90,248,400	- \$11,083,200	- 5.8%	527.00	527.00	527.00	0.00	0.0%
PR	0	134,000	232,700	366,700	N.A.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0
Total	\$95,790,000	\$90,382,400	\$90,481,100	- \$10,716,500	- 5.6%	527.00	527.00	527.00	0.00	0.0%

Budget Change Items

1. STANDARD BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

GPR	\$1,117,000
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Governor: Provide adjustments for full funding of salaries and fringe benefits (\$558,900 annually) and full funding of lease and directed moves costs (-\$400 annually).

2. INCREASE EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PENSIONS AND HEALTH INSURANCE

GPR	- \$7,264,800
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Governor: Delete \$3,632,400 annually to reflect fringe benefit cost reductions associated with increased state employee contributions for Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) benefits and health insurance coverage. The calculation of retirement savings is based on employee WRS contributions equal to 5.8% of salary. Health insurance cost reductions are based on employees paying an average of approximately 12.6% of total premium costs, compared to the current average of approximately 6% of costs.

3. APPROPRIATION REDUCTIONS

GPR	- \$4,935,400
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Governor: Reduce funding by \$2,467,700 annually associated with a 10% reduction to supplies and other non-personnel costs. Circuit court appropriations would be reduced as follows: (a) -\$143,400 annually from the court interpreter reimbursement appropriation; (b) -\$1,855,200 annually from the circuit court support payments appropriation; and (c) -\$469,100 annually from guardian ad litem costs.

4. COURT INTERPRETER REIMBURSEMENT

PR	\$366,700
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Governor: Create a program revenue appropriation and provide \$134,000 in 2011-12 and \$232,700 in 2012-13 for state reimbursement to counties for court interpreter services, as follows: (a) \$57,300 in 2011-12 and \$117,000 in 2012-13 for projected increased caseload; and (b) \$76,700 in 2011-12 and \$115,700 in 2012-13 for projected increased use of certified court interpreters. Funding for the new appropriation would come from revenue from the justice information system surcharge. [See "Administration -- Justice Information System Surcharge Overview" for additional information.]

Under current law, the state reimburses counties for actual expenses for interpreters used in circuit court proceedings from a GPR appropriation. Base funding for court interpreter reimbursement is \$1,433,500 GPR. The bill would create an additional PR appropriation for court interpreter reimbursement. In addition, the bill would decrease the GPR appropriation for court interpreters by 10%. [See Item #3 for additional information.]

[Bill Sections: 768 and 3477]

5. CREATE NEW PROGRAM REVENUE RECEIPTS APPROPRIATION -- PROGRAM MATERIALS AND SERVICES-RECEIPTS

Governor: Create a program revenue continuing appropriation for monies received, other than from state agencies, by circuit courts from the sale of materials or services for general program operations of the courts. According to the courts, possible uses for the appropriation would include: court training and committee work with other governmental units, county-purchased judicial legal resources, file sharing, and intergovernmental purchase agreements.

[Bill Section: 767]

6. COUNTY AUTHORITY TO CREATE AND ASSESS FEES FOR COURT SELF-HELP CENTERS

Governor: Authorize a county board to direct its clerk of courts to operate a self-help center in the county courthouse to provide individuals with information regarding the court system. The clerk of courts may staff a self-help center with county employees or volunteers, although no one who works or volunteers at the center may provide legal advice to patrons. Authorize the county board to impose on and collect a fee from individuals who use the services of the self-help center.

Information regarding the court system that a self-help center may provide would include: (a) how to represent oneself in circuit court; (b) how to obtain legal assistance or legal information; (c) information regarding legal proceedings such as small claims actions, family law, and foreclosure; (d) how to file an appeal; (e) information about people and offices in the courthouse; (f) where to obtain, and how to fill out, legal forms; and (g) answers to frequently asked questions concerning the legal system.

[Bill Section: 1671]